Monday, February 18, 2008 | 11 sections | Vol. 23 | No. 72



ANTI-GMA ALL. Singing the nationalist song "Bayan Ko" and raising their fists with the crowd during Sunday's Mass for whistle-blower Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr. (second from right) at La Salle Green Hills are, from left, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Rep. Jose de Venecia, former Senate President Franklin Drilon, Makati Business Club chair Ramon del Rosario, Br. Armin Luistro FSC, former President Corazon Aquino, Lozada and his wife Violeta.

Ex-gov't officials tell GMA Cabinet to quit

Edsa spirit at Mass for Lozada

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christine O. Avendaño

THE THRONG THAT TURNED out yesterday for the 10 a.m. Mass for Senate witness Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr. at La Salle Green Hills was reminiscent of Edsa People Power I.

Surprised and deeply touched, Lozada exclaimed: [illegible]

Flanked by Corazon Aquino and the De Venecia couple, Rep. Jose Jr. and Gina, Lozada said he felt at home with the former President and the various religious groups supporting him.

Behind them stood former Senators Franklin Drilon and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., former members of the Aquino Cabinet, and Aquino's daughters Baby and Viel, who came with their families, and her son Sen. [illegible]

EDSA A2

'It's time to go; it's time to cut clean'

By Kristine L. Alave

IN A MOVE THAT could further stir political turbulence, about 60 former government officials yesterday said the Arroyo administration had "gone wild" and urged Cabinet members who could no longer stomach its supposed greed to resign, declaring: "It's time to cut clean. It's time to go."

The group made its appeal at the thousands at a Mass rallied behind key Senate witness Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr., and a priest declared that a government that "suppresses the truth ... loses its authority" to govern.

[illegible]

The Arroyos have denied any [illegible]

EX-GOV'TS A2

TV viewers find witness very credible

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER MORE THAN A WEEK of fending off criticism about his integrity, testimony in the Senate and kidnapping story, Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr. still enjoys high credibility among TV viewers.

[illegible]

TV VIEWERS A4



SHARED: Judge Nagamura Moner explains how cheating was done

'HELLO GARCI' WITNESSES

3 poll operators admit to cheating

By Gerry Lirio

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

—Wiretapped phone conversation, 2005

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—In an isolated beach resort away from television lights, a former Muslim judge talked about his alleged involvement that could have helped piece together the "Hello Garci" puzzle.

Nagamura Moner, 53, [illegible]

[illegible]

3 POLL OPERATORS A6

Church role in people power cited

By Tarra Quismundo and Beverly T. Natividad

RELIGIOUS LEADERS, whether in the Christian or Muslim world, are proven catalysts of successful revolutions.

[illegible]

CHURCH A4

Cover-up may doom President

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

[illegible]

COVER-UP A2

US think tank doesn't see GMA ouster

By Doris C. Dumlao and Nikko Dizon

A NEW YORK-BASED THINK tank sees a slim chance that President Macapagal-Arroyo will be ousted through another "people power" given the lack of public outrage and solid backing from the military brass over amid the ZTE-NBN scandal.

[illegible]

US THINK TANK A2

Next US president may be a hothead

WASHINGTON—JOHN McCAIN is known for his temper. [illegible]

NEXT US A8



WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage



SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P61,982,809.20

Gov't belies Lozada amparo plea

NBN witness was never under threat, Solgen tells appeals court

WHAT'S INSIDE

- CUSTOMS TO place industrial generators on auction block A6
- GOV'T SEEKS ex-sport exec's conviction for graft A6

GOVERNMENT LAWYERS YESTERDAY OBJECTed to the grant of a protective writ of amparo to National Broadband Network project star witness Rodolfo Lozada Jr., and to the inclusion of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the list of respondents in his petition.

Alleged abduction

Not taken against his will

Unlawful act

Gonzalez: GMA slay plot tied to stalled MILF peace talks

Muslims, Christians unite vs RP-US military exercise

Policy violations, rights abuses

No combat exercises

Medical outreach



How to REALLY quit smoking: DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR CIGARETTES

'Doesn't look sick to me,' ex-gov says of ex-solon



BI employees face raps

Gov't seeks ex-sport exec's conviction for graft

Youth to get second chance











Customs to place industrial generators on auction block

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE BUREAU OF Customs is set to auction all 24 imported industrial power generators that were seized in January but now to raise additional revenue for the government.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the importer of the generators, National Petrochemical Corporation Alliance, failed to pay about P300 million in tariffs and duties.

"We have no option but to sell the generators immediately through auction to get additional revenues," Morales said.

He said the NPCA initially wanted to redeem the generators but backed out upon learning that it would have to shell out P300 million.

NPCA is an Iranian company associated with plastics king William Gatchalian.

NPCA imported the generators only for its Bataan petrochemical plant from Aggreko Singapore Pte. Ltd., which delivered the equipment in three shipments that arrived in February, March and May last year.

But customs examiners inspected the generators to have been undervalued and misdeclared.

Morales said the importer had used tax exemption certificates from the Department of Finance on the pretense that the generators would only be displayed during a 17-week exhibit at their warehouses at PHILEC Park.

However, customs agents have verified that there was no exhibit and that the generators were actually for sale.

"This is a new scheme to avoid the payment of taxes," Morales said, adding that the company had succeeded in selling 10 generators.

Operatives of the bureau's Intelligence and Enforcement Group under Customs Deputy Commissioner [illegible] conducted a raid at PHILEC Park in Mariveles, Bataan, and seized the generators last year.

A BOF Revenue Region [illegible] office had granted the tax exemption on the condition that the Aggreko Generators would be used solely for exhibition purposes and would be re-exported after the exhibit. The company was also required to post a re-export bond equivalent to 100 percent of the assessed duties and taxes.

"The certificate of exemption was used in the filing of the import entry to clear and release the shipment," Morales explained.

He said Port of Subic Collector Marietta Zamoranos conducted a hearing to give the importer a chance to air their side.

"They (importers) filed a motion for reconsideration but the motion has been denied," he said.

NPCA officials, however, said the company could not be accused of smuggling because the generators were meant to be temporarily used for a petrochemical plant in Bataan before being re-exported to Singapore.

They also argued that NPCA belonged to a Board of Investments-registered pioneer industry which "enjoys a six-year tax holiday and tax exemption on capital equipment, including unlimited consignment of capital goods for its temporary use."











TV viewers find witness very credible

[illegible]

Abalos' burger recipe

[illegible]





Next US president ...

[illegible]



Chiz: Ombudsman slept while burglars did their work

Lakas, Kampi merger crucial to 2010 victory, says Nograles

The Daily Gospel

'Free peasant leader'

Church role ...

Communal action

Peaceful revolution

US think tank ...

Not letting guard down

Biggest protest rally

Threat of power grab

Cover-up may . . .

Not in control

Presidential guards

Outrage over abuse

Edsa spirit in Mass for Lozada

'You're not alone'

More active role

Not a Clarissa

Ex-gov't officials tell GMA Cabinet to quit



AQUINO displays pro-Lozada button.

Moral decadence

Democracy under attack

Hanging on to power

No hard evidence

Credible witness

'I can be the spark'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Dysfunctional

EDITORIAL



An appeal to Razon and Fernando

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Hero

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

The limits of 'executive privilege'

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



An open letter to Gen. Avelino Razon Jr.

REVELLI

Ramon J. Farolan



Barack, Hillary and Philippine politics

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

This too shall pass

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



Madmen rule the asylum

LETTERS

—JIMMY I. ONG, Barangay Nayong Kanluran, Quezon City

'Collateral damage': Helpless civilians in the line of fire

—NINI DORIA, Isis International-Manila

Filipinos need protection from abusive industry

A gang of liars, precisely

MANITOWOC CRANE GROUP, INC. PHILIPPINES CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF CRANE LEADERSHIP

A Brief History of MCG Inc. in the Philippines

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO WORLDWIDE INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

Founded in 1928 by Frenchman Faustin Potain, the company humbly began as a producer of small construction equipment. Today, Potain has sold and installed more than 110,000 cranes worldwide and has a sterling reputation for quality, dependability and excellent service.

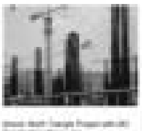
Manitowoc's Potain Tower Crane is the world's leading tower crane, built with top quality materials, superb craftsmanship and designed for long-term use for optimum performance. The value of a genuine Potain Crane is readily seen through its resale value. Genuine Potain cranes retain their value during the project and at completion, for project after project—truly a mark of quality.

Spurred by its fast-growing Asian customer base and the desire to deliver only the best products and services to these clients, Potain established its regional headquarters in Singapore in 1997, supporting businesses in India, Japan, Korea, China Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. A year later, Potain opened its office in the Philippines, marking 2008 its 10th year of operations in the country.

As the leader in the industry, Potain Cranes have been used in the construction of some of the largest construction projects in Asia Pacific including LongTan Dam in China, the Melbourne Convention Center in Australia, the Nina Towers in Hong Kong, Vaigunda Dam in India, as well as several in the Philippines such as the Pacific Plaza, Fort Bonifacio, the Procter & Gamble Plant in Laguna, and Makati Development Corporation's The Columns, The Residences, Serendra and Greenbelt 5 projects.

10 YEARS OF SERVING THE PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION MARKET

In 1995, Potain entered the Philippine market with Pacific Orient Winds Corporation or POWCO as distributor. Two years later, POWCO sold its first brand new Potain Tower Crane and another year later, in 1998, delivered five Potain Tower Cranes for the Pacific Plaza project in Fort Bonifacio. During this same year, Potain Philippines was incorporated with Eric Etchart as Chairman and Dennis Warren as President. By 1999, Potain Inc. has started deploying service teams for erection, warranty and repair of Potain Cranes all over Asia.



[illegible caption]



In 2001 Manitowoc acquired Potain, Inc. followed by the acquisition of Grove and National in 2002. The synergy of the industry leaders Manitowoc, Grove, Potain and National in one company brought in record orders for the Manitowoc Crane Group. In 2003, Potain Inc. Philippines changed its corporate name to Manitowoc Crane Group, Inc. or MCG, Inc. (Philippines).

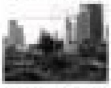
By 2005 Manitowoc has built and inaugurated a new wholly owned Potain tower crane factory in Zhang Jia Gang, China.

Manitowoc Crane Group Inc. celebrates its 10th year in the Philippines this 2008.

THE NAMES THAT CARRY THEIR WEIGHT

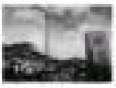
Manitowoc Crane Group is known the world over for providing the most advanced and comprehensive range of lifting solutions. This passion shines through in its products already world-renowned for innovation and creativity: Grove, Manitowoc, National and Potain. Together with its support services Manitowoc Crane Care and Manitowoc Crane Credit, they truly live out what is called their Passion Statement "Working together providing premium lifting solutions."

Delivering a Decade of 100% Customer Satisfaction



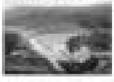
"We are very satisfied with the very high availability and utilization of the Potain Tower Crane at the MDC Greenbelt Redevelopment Project, and the exemplary services rendered by Potain Inc. to MDC."

-Engineer Florello P. Quiamco, Consultant, Equipment & Concrete Products Division, Makati Development Corporation, January 2002



"Proven product quality and high performance of Potain Tower Cranes made DDTKI decide to use it on its prestigious projects, aside from the 24-hour on-call service, spare parts availability, and professional after-sales services."

-Danilo D. Tamayo, President, DDT Konstrakt, Inc., July 2005



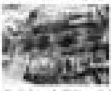
"Potain, has been a outstanding supplier to the San Roque Dam Project since 2000 up to the present. We wish to recognize and recommend Potain as a valuable supplier with dependable service and quality products."

-Jayson H. Fallon, Procurement Manager, Raytheon-Ebasco Overseas Ltd. (San Roque Multipurpose Project), September 2002



"We are very satisfied with the very high availability and utilization of Potain Tower Crane along with the exemplary after sales support and professional services rendered by Manitowoc Crane Group, Inc. to Monolingon Construction Corporation."

-William C. Guo, President and General Manager, Monolingon Construction Corporation, June 2006



"We are very much satisfied with cooperation and services given by Potain, Inc. to the Globe Telecom Building & Telepark Project."

-Janandro Sali, Asst. Project Manager, Sumicon Philippines Corporation, March 2002



"This is to attest that from its erection and commissioning on 23 March 1998 up to the time it was dismantled, there was never an instance of brake failure in any of its motor while the crane was in operation nor with its speed control up to the time of its dismantling."

-Engineer Edgardo R. San Juan, Deputy Project Manager, SAEI/EEI Construction Corporation, October 2000

"D.M. Consunji, Inc. has a fleet of 38 tower cranes and are very happy with the after sales service and support of Potain, Inc. We have been doing business with Potain since they started in 1998. Potain is highly recommended for parts sales, service, erection, and dismantling of Tower Cranes."

-Christopher R. Rodriguez, D.M. Consunji, Inc., February 2007



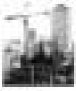
"We are very satisfied with the very high availability and utilization of the Potain Tower Crane at the Robinson's Eastwood Robinson's Cagayan/Nuevo Ecija Capitol Projects, and the exemplary services rendered by Potain, Inc. to LKS."

-Philip C. Lim, Executive Vice President, LKS Construction and Development Corporation, October 2002



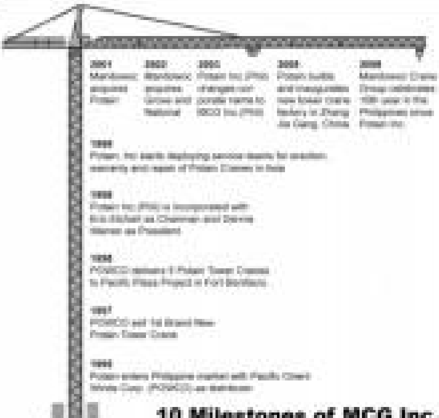
"This is to certify that the Tower Crane unit Model MC-108 supplied by Potain, Inc., Phils. To our Procter & Gamble Plant Projects- LPPP Cabuyao, Laguna, is up to the present is 100% operational capacity since the date it was commissioned on Oct. 30, 1998."

-Hermenio E. Del Rosario, Site Manager, AMECO, January 2000



"Tough and tight-scheduled projects require efficient equipment and superior service support offered only by Manitowoc Crane Group and their Potain Tower Cranes"

-Jerry Mateo, Vice President for Supply Chain, EEI Group, February 2008



10 Milestones of MCG Inc. Philippines

Manitowoc CraneCARE makes good business sense

Potain ensures their customers safety and quality through the rigorous and consistent testing of all their suppliers. While such a stringent accreditation process is undeniably costly, it is where the company's unquestionable reputation and track record are hinged upon. The results, needless to say are well worth the price. Manitowoc Crane Group Inc. General Manager, Raul Fernandez proudly shares, "We have a 100% safety record in the 10 years of operations in the Philippines." Potain clients know very well that the premium price they pay for does not just go to purchasing equipment per se, but also the assurance of safety and ultimately, peace of mind — which inarguably, is priceless.

Because the company understands the significant investment needed to purchase a Potain Crane, they created Manitowoc CraneCARE, the company's service and support program designed to provide expert technical and parts assistance and other lifting solutions to its highly diverse customer groups 24/7. Simply put, when a client purchases a Potain Crane, they will have access to Manitowoc CraneCARE, a comprehensive and advanced worldwide service program that provides unprecedented access to the best support in the crane business.

Manitowoc Executives Reaffirm Long-term Commitment



ERIC ETCHART – President of Manitowoc Crane Group (GLOBAL) and Chairman of Manitowoc Crane Group Inc. (Philippines)

"We began our quest with Potain Philippines 10 years ago at the worst time of the Asian Crisis, with the pledge to deliver only the best services in Tower cranes. Today, 10 years later, our efforts have been rewarded by having established a very loyal customer base that understand and value the Potain brand and after service excellence. We value the business generated by our clients — our partners, and I thank the employees of Potain Philippines, now Manitowoc Cranes Inc., for their dedication and professionalism. I pay tribute to Dennis Warren's leadership — who has been at the helm of the company since its inception. Dennis has no doubt executed our vision and succeeded in establishing a great team of employees.

We will continue to serve the customers in the Philippines with the same passion for customer support thru our CraneCARE organization in the years to come. We remain confident that, with the current positive construction trend, Manitowoc Philippines will continue to grow with its customers while relying on the values that have made our company successful in the last 10 years."



DENNIS WARREN – President of Manitowoc Crane Group Inc. (Philippines)

Ten years ago when Potain, Inc. Philippines was incorporated with Eric Etchart as Chairman and myself as President, we made a promise to give our clients total commitment and support, and by so doing decided no stone would be left unturned in order to keep this promise. With heartfelt gratitude and joy, I am proud to announce that after 10 years, we have indeed delivered on this commitment. Our customer satisfaction study results have shown that our clients are 100% satisfied with our products and services. This is quite a feat considering the state of the Philippine economy 10 years ago, at the height of the Asian Financial Crisis.

I am confident and pleased to say that the future is bright. We are amidst a current economic growth and we expect this trend to continue for the next four to five years. Not to say that we will be complacent. On the contrary, we anticipate to be up against an influx of competition. We welcome this because we believe that such a challenge keeps us on our toes and motivates us to constantly strive for more and offer the best of ourselves.

The success that the last 10 years has brought shows us, as manifested by the 100% customer satisfaction results and 100% safety record, that clients understand the value they receive by investing in a Potain Tower Crane. Although significantly higher in price compared to other brands, it has become evident to our customers that such a cautious choice in investment carries with it not only high-quality products but also a long-term commitment from MCG, Inc. This relationship of trust and partnership we have built over the years has become in itself the reason why we are the leader in the Philippines, Asia and the rest of the world—now, in the next decade, and beyond.

3 poll operators admit to cheating

Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines

Speaking Truth, Seeking Justice
Setting Things Right

CEAP on the Events of our Time

February 14, 2008

"No lie can live forever," said Carlyle. *"Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again,"* added William Cullen Bryant. And forty years ago, Martin Luther King cried:

On some positions,
Cowardice asks the question, "Is it safe?"
Expediency asks the question, "Is it politic?"
Vanity asks the question, "Is it popular?"
But Conscience asks the question, "Is it right?"

There comes a time when one must take a position
that is neither safe nor politic nor popular;
but one must take it
because Conscience says, "It is right."

Following his conscience, Rodolfo Lozada Jr. these days has revealed possible corruption in the handling of government contracts. His confession has stirred memories of other allegations by other people of graft and greed in government, and is shaking the souls of many to speak and act in response.

What of us, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), an association of 1,252 schools, colleges, and universities with at least 2 million students and around 120,000 school personnel and faculty?

We too must speak, we too must act. For, as the same Martin Luther King continued, ***"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent on things that matter."***

Silent then we must not be or must no longer be, if once we were. May not our lives end but rather begin in a special way this Valentine's Day. Beyond the love we are expected to declare for the persons of our hearts, is the love for the people of our country that we are invited to express in this time of crisis in our land. Mere bystanders we cannot just be but active participants in the continuous task of shaping our nation's life. In the words of Vaclav Havel, ***"By perceiving ourselves as part of the river, we take responsibility for the river as a whole."***

For those of us who know the truth, we pray for the courage to speak it. For those who seek justice, we pray for humility in the pursuit, personal integrity in the quest, respect for others involved in the search. For those of us who must judge and act on what we see and hear, we pray for fairness and the will to make the good triumph over evil in a way that removes the bad, without the act leading to what is even worse.

In tandem with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) we invite our member schools and their constituents, our alumni and friends individually and communally to pray for guidance on what to do in these times of tension and difficulty. We ask our administrators, faculty, and students to bring to the fore the issues of the day, discuss in humility and decide in fortitude and love what we must do together as a people in the different parts of the country where we are.

We must seek to discover the educative moment and the lesson for life in the investigation sessions and in the rallies and other mass actions we may join. To our country and the world we must show and say that we will not allow dishonesty, corruption, indifference or neglect to rule our lives. We must look into ourselves and ensure that what we decry in others we do not do ourselves.

We should pledge to continue to teach and live truth, honesty and integrity in our own schools so that when our graduates leave us they bring with them not just skills and knowledge but wisdom and love to inspire and change the world.

To this end, we link up with other groups sincerely searching for truth and justice. We encourage the establishment of truth centers in our schools so that our students, teachers, and staff are led to continuing awareness, reflection, and formation toward social-political engagement. We invite our members to support the sanctuary fund set up by the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP). We support the signature campaign demanding the implementation of the Supreme Court's decision junking Executive Order 464 so that the search for truth is not hindered or compromised.

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life we shall continue to ask to lead us, accompany and comfort us in all we need to do. It is He, after all, who will truly set us free. The Holy Spirit we ask to enlighten us so that our external actions flow from inner harmony of heart. We remember the words of Will Durant: ***"A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within."*** So we ask our Heavenly Father for the grace that we never neglect but ever firm up the moral fiber of our souls.

Our anger at the wrong and sinful things in and around us may we not allow to make of ourselves men and women of violence. We take to heart the thought of Martin Luther King: ***The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence, you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."***

May our light dispel our darkness, may our love melt whatever hatred may lurk within. But in this Kairos moment, this time of grace, we, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines, with all men and women of good will, in our nation and in the world, in the name of the Lord, by the grace of His Spirit, in concert and in communion call on ourselves and one another to — **speak the truth, seek justice and work to set things right.**

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Across the NATION







DENR cancels tax declarations on Boracay wetlands

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas and Jocelyn R. Uy in Manila

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO ATIENZA ON FRIDAY ORDERED the cancellation of tax declarations issued to claimants of a four-hectare wetland in Barangay Yapak and a one-hectare wetland in Barangay Balabag, both on Boracay Island.

No-build zone

Not environmentally critical



Gov't, MNLF extend term of pact review body

Confidence building

Implementation issues



ILOILO REGATTA

Bikers, journalists join drive to raise funds to save forests

AFP wages war on illiteracy

Salam program

Rebels turned soldiers

NEWSBRIEFS

■ DUMAGUETE CITY

Prosecutor clears mayor of perjury

■ BACOLOD CITY

Public alerted on Kanlaon explosions

■ MAASIN CITY

17 Southern Leyte employees reinstated

■ PASAY CITY

Court dismisses drug raps vs driver

■ NAGA CITY

Police office placed under regional director

Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A29 to A32



2-TO-NIL LEAD

Realtors gain more ground over Giants



Fiesta Cup opening postponed

SMART Buddy

MAROON 5

ON MARCH 5

8PM • Araneta Coliseum



Don't Miss Their First Visit To The Philippines!

Go to your nearest Metro Manila SMART Wireless Center to enjoy these

SMART Buddy Exclusive MAROON 5 DEALS:

- **FREE CONCERT TICKETS & PREMIUM ITEMS!**
  Every purchase of a SMART Buddy SIM entitles you to pick a prize.
- **Get 20% off on Concert Tickets**
  Simply present your active SMART subscription upon purchase.

Plus, get a chance to **MEET & GREET MAROON 5** or **WATCH THE CONCERT for FREE!**
Just subscribe to "Won't Go Home Without You" **CALLER RINGTONE** to earn raffle entries.

Text M5 to 2728 now!



REPACKED ALBUM OUT NOW

ENTERTAINMENT

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

A plus METRO

DID YOU KNOW

DOE backs SC on oil depot relocation



HOPING FOR A BITE OR TWO

Puno asked to step into landfill standoff

Makati cops target snobbish taxi drivers

Cops arrest man for estafa, illegal recruitment



ROAD OBSTRUCTIONS

Deteriorating water service

Plaza Lawton a big PUV terminal

Chaos in the streets



WAITING TO MAKE A SALE

DOE . . .



Obama, Clinton tangle over superdelegates



OBAMA AFP



CLINTON

Australia to allow more migrants

WorldBriefs

Afghan dog fighting blast kills 80, says governor

US admits it fired on anti-Qaida allies in Iraq

Bosses less likely to have cancer, says study

The WORLD

Suicide car bomber kills 46 in Pakistan poll rally

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—Pakistan's president said Monday's crucial parliamentary elections would go ahead as planned despite a massive suicide car bombing at a campaign rally that killed up to 46 people—many of them supporters of slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.



AFP

With Western help, Kosovo declares independence

PRISTINA, SERBIA—Kosovo was poised to become the world's newest state on Sunday, albeit under the guidance of the European Union and the United States, as it prepared to declare independence from Serbia.

AFP

SPORTS

Viloria hot on comeback trail

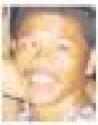
Fil-Am fighter decisions Lopez



Santillan loses OPBF title to Sasaki by TKO

Navarrete attacked with a knife

By Aquiles Zonio



NAVARRETE

Aguilar nips Singh; Rosales ties for 44th

Nat'l Olympic body seeks to unify all sports laws

Castro, 2 other PBL standouts eye pro stints



Mixed fortunes for RP's Sadorra, Gomez



Save RP sports from miss-and-miss prophets

Bare Eye



Sportswatch

Mighty Fiber Kings turn back Cordillera College five

Top prizes for hole-in-one in 5th Plata golfest today

PBL coaches, Petron beach volleybelles Forum guests

Makati 4-cocker gets going

SJC Arnis Master derby on

Record falls as Aussies eye bigger gold haul





SULLIVAN



COVENTRY

'Ghost' still haunts his foe

Pavlik repeats over Taylor via unanimous decision



MILO MARATHON ELIMS

Sabal outsprints Briton in Clark 21K





Scot tops ladies race

Buenavista triumphs; Fetalvero wins No. 8



BUENAVISTA

Drivers rev up for Hill Climb Series Feb. 27

SPORTS

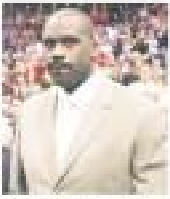


'Superman' soars to slam dunk crown

Kapono keeps three-point title

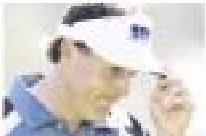
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA—ORLANDO MAGIC BIG MAN Dwight Howard donned a Superman costume as part of a performance that allowed him to capture the NBA Slam Dunk competition in New Orleans on Saturday.

Absent Shaq still life of the party





Mickelson bucks foe's ace, keeps Northern golf lead



IN THIS ISSUE

- **Tax effort down** to 14% in 2007 /B5
- **Peza eyes ways to cut** power cost in ecozones /B12

BUSINESS

Unlike gov't, exporters see no cause for cheer

CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT EXPECTATIONS, PROSPECTS FOR the exports sector will remain bleak this year due to the peso's continuing rise against the dollar and a marked slowdown in the US economy, according to exporters.

CURRENCIES

All eyes on politics, global trade

Gov't doubled subsidies to state firms in 2007



In spite of, not because of

No Free Lunch
Cielito F. Habito



THIS IS NOT THE TIME, THE NAYsaying goes, to be demanding accountability for corruption and abuse of power, when the economy is doing well and growth is on the upswing.

We cannot afford to rock the boat all over again with issues of corruption and questions on the government's legitimacy and risk losing the economic gains we have already made, they say.

Palace defenders would even declare it to be pure folly to ask for the resignation of the President who has given us 25 quarters of uninterrupted growth, as if that would be tantamount to getting rid of our very savior.

I feel sad whenever I hear such sentiments expressed, as if the performance of the economy was the paramount concern to which everything else—including truth, justice and righteousness—must be subordinated.

It reflects, to my mind, both faulty priorities and faulty premises on the part of those who say so.

Faulty priorities

Two years ago, I lamented in this column when a market analyst declared that our political leaders should be devoting 80 percent of their attention to the economy and only 20 percent to the search for truth and accountability.

To me, it reflected the kind of misplaced priorities and shortsightedness that lead people to the above reasoning.

I asserted then, as I continue to assert now, that an economy not built on a foundation of truth and justice is fundamentally weak. Without truth and with respect for it, any economic gains are illusory and transitory, as the economy stands on shaky ground, and only builds pressure into the simmering social volcano.

One would think that people in business who like to tout the above line of economy before truth should be among the first to realize this.

Or is it a fact that shortsightedness is an all-too-common affliction of Filipino business people (let alone politicians)? Could this be the reason why our economy failed to achieve the sustained dynamism shown by our neighboring economies in past decades?

And just anyone in business must realize that for an economy to flourish and stay that way, contracts must be enforced and respected, transactions must be transparent, the playing field must be level, and rent-seeking must give way to fair competition. The economy, in short, must be built on honesty and hard work.

Faulty premises

Many also question the very premise of those who continue to tout the economy-before-truth line, i.e., that the economy is doing well and we should therefore not rock the boat. This is not to deny that there are manifestations of improvement in the economy seen in the official data.

Notwithstanding various questions raised on our GDP/GNP growth data, my friend and fellow economist Philip Medalla still concludes that growth of the Philippine economy has been picking up in recent years.

It may be overstated by one or two percentage points—that is, it would be more like 5.3 to 6.3 percent rather than the reported 7.3 percent if measured in a way that would make recent data comparable to the pre-2004 data. (It is a fact that pre-2004 economic growth data are not comparable with post-2004 data, as the government had changed the methodology of measurement—and the National Statistical Coordination Board makes no secret of this.) Still, this does not change the fact that GDP growth has accelerated in recent years.

The issue, though, is not about the quantity of growth, but rather the quality of that growth.

As widely lamented, we have been witnessing a growth that has not filtered down to the lower levels of society. Even my friend, Albay Governor Joey Salceda, touted by many as the de facto chief economic adviser of the President, admits to being disappointed over the unmistakable drop in real incomes of the middle and lower classes in recent years, as clearly evidenced by the highly reliable Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES).

Our recent economic growth has been achieved at their expense—and that is why Salceda and the President are now talking of the need for "social rebalancing"—a nice term for giving direct income transfers to the poor and middle classes.

Wrong attribution

Is this the kind of economic momentum people say is worth preserving, then? The big businesses who have truly been reporting hefty profits would say yes, obviously—but I'd expect a different answer from the wide majority who have actually seen their real incomes decline in recent years.

But even granting that the news is indeed good, is it really the government that we ought to thank for that? If the inflation rate has been low—i.e., prices have been more stable (although I keep getting reader mail disputing that)—we have the weak dollar and our OFWs to thank for that, for raising the value of the peso.

If the unemployment rate has gone down recently (i.e., to 6.3 percent from last year's 7.3 percent), it's not because our growing economy generated that many new jobs, but because a lot of working-age Filipinos have stopped looking for jobs, and are thus not counted as part of the labor force.

And it appears again that our OFWs are to be thanked for that to a large extent, as their remittances have been observed by researchers to have led to a disturbing dependency syndrome among their dependents left behind at home.

In short, if we are seeing positive developments in the economy, it is all in spite of, rather than because of our current leadership. We deserve, and could attain, much better.

The next Ateneo Eagle Watch Economic and Political Briefing, featuring Gov. Joey Salceda as special guest, will be on the morning of Feb. 20 at the Ateneo Rockwell campus. Call Gian Jacson at 4265970 or e-mail for inquiries and reservations. Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu.

Gov't doubled ...

From page B1

of Housing Authority (P4.744 billion), National Electrification Administration (P2.726 billion), National Food Authority (P1.12 billion), and PhilHealth (P1.004 billion).

Teves said the subsidies given to GFIs, such as LandBank and Development Bank of the Philippines, will also be used to enhance their lending programs.

The subsidies are expected to improve the social services of state firms and make them contribute to efforts to boost the economy.

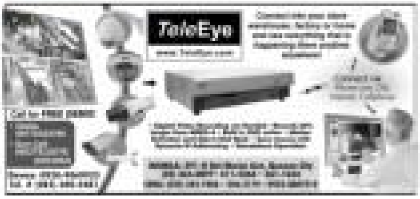
Pump-priming the economy is necessary, especially now that the United States, the Philippines' biggest export market, is on the verge of a recession.

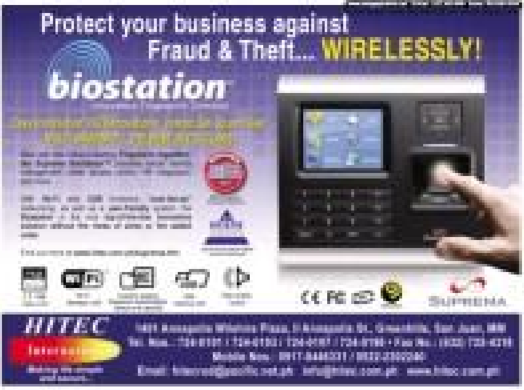
In 2007, the government wanted to limit its subsidies to state-owned firms to only P4.89 billion. The goal, however, has already been breached since the end of the first half.

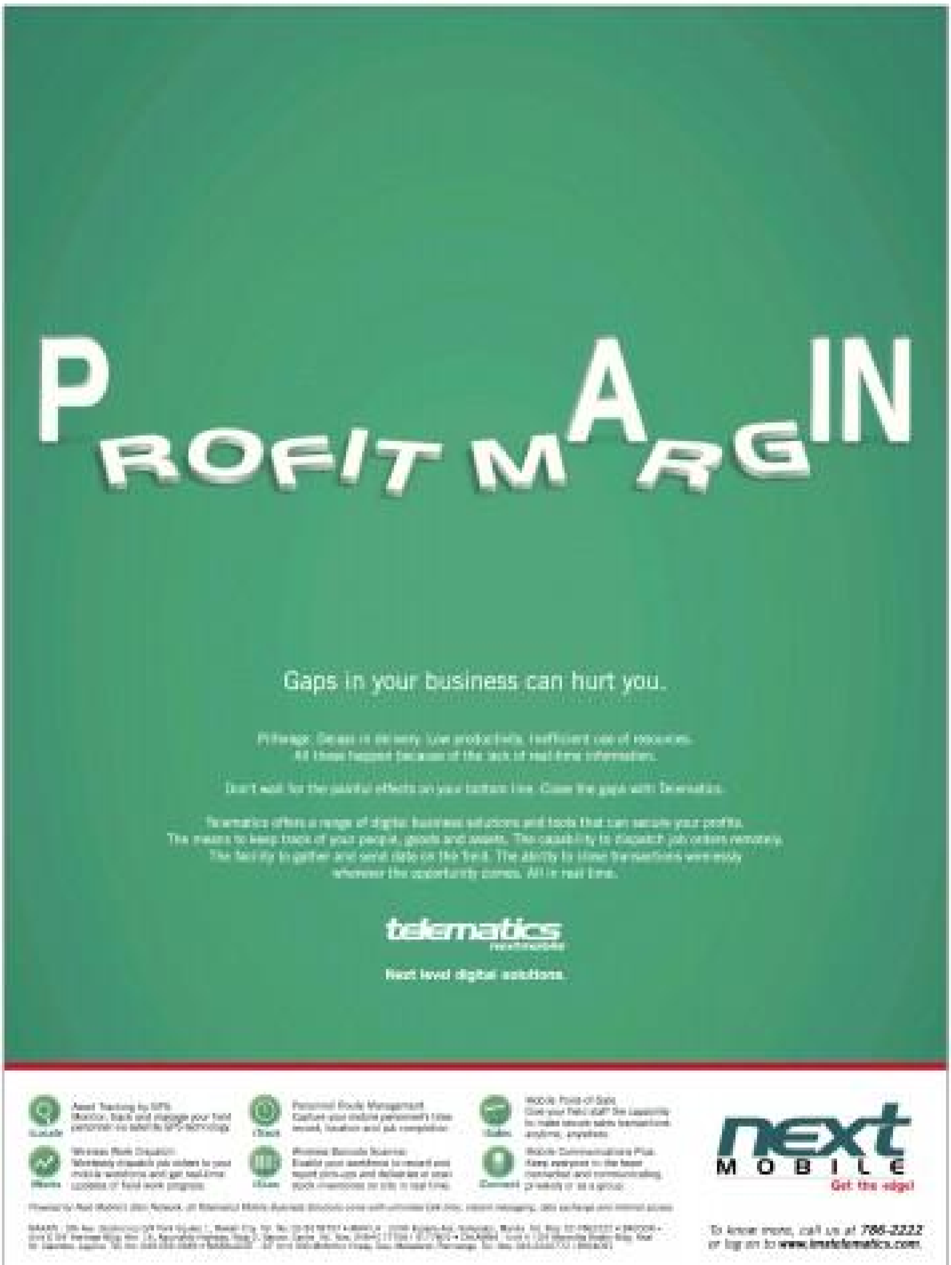





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SMBI to pursue public offer

Parent company upbeat on unit's prospects

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

[illegible]



PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

[illegible]

Petrolift shelves IPO plan

Expansion program to continue, says officer

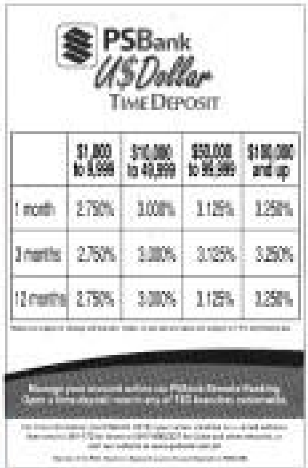
Elizabeth Sanchez-Larson

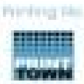
[illegible]

Landbank investment in rural bank OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]













Gov't hopes to draw OFWs back home to help expand economy

Tax effort down to 14% in 2007

Revenue collection failed to match economic growth

Unlike gov't, exporters ...

All eyes on politics, global trade





Use jatropha for industry, not transport, group proposes

Exemption of sugar from Afta tariff reduction plan sought

Local industry wants protection from possible influx of cheap imports







Landbank earmarks $247M for co-ops, SMEs



Rescue plan could inject positive note on Wall St.

But common sentiment points to bearish market, experts say

Fed chief consulted with major players in financial world



BERNANKE

Whiff of US stagflation should dissipate soon

4 US papers create online ad network

IN LOVING MEMORY

ON HIS 95TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

CONRADO C. ALCANTARA

February 19, 1913 – March 19, 1983

We remember our beloved father to have lived his life according to these lines:

"I expect to pass this world but once
Any good thing therefore that I can do
Or any kindness I can show to my fellowmen
Let me do it now
Let me not defer or neglect it
For I shall not pass this way again"

Together with his family and friends, we will remember him with the offering of the Holy Mass at his gravesite, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque on February 19, 2008 at 4:00 PM.

We request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO TAGAYTAY CITY TAXPAYERS

THE CITY TREASURER SHALL HOLD AN **AUCTION SALE OF ALL REAL PROPERTIES** WITH DELINQUENT TAX PAYMENTS ON LAND, BUILDING AND MACHINERIES BEFORE JUNE 30, 2008.

IN THIS CONNECTION, ALL TAXPAYERS ARE ADVISED TO SETTLE / UPDATE REALTY TAX ARREARAGES BEFORE THE SAID DATE TO AVOID INCLUSION OF THE PROPERTY IN THE SAID AUCTION SALE.

(Sgd.) **ELVIRA M. REYES**
OIC – City Treasurer

More Classifieds on pages

AFP-Modernization Program – A20
National Food Authority – B10
DepED Region IX – B10
Social Security System – B10
CB Richard Ellis – B10

People, Events & Products

Tourism boom spurs job fair in Cebu

DOT to push RP conventions in Aussie event

Latest facial treatment more affordable at Skin Divine



BUSINESS

Peza eyes ways to cut power cost in ecozones

By Abigail L. Ho



Plans to issue standards on halal hit snag

GMA launches new channel

BUSINESS Monday



Serious business of choosing a name





Research firms are tapped, consultants hired to come up with the most appropriate name

NOT JUST FOR THE RICH

Financial planning is everyone's responsibility

Secularism, democracy and prosperity

MAPping the Future



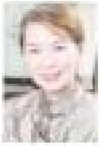
Top-level discussion

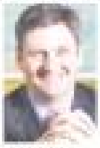
Nation of immigrants

Multiculturalism

Financial planning ...

Are we ready for online banking?


CECILIA FONACIER


MARK JONES

Features in Brief

Pfizer celebrates a decade of partnership

Davao school offers career path to Australia

Course for wedding coordinators set

Review for real broker's exam set



For Yahoo board, Microsoft deal may be a duty



Can't say no

Connections

BUSINESS Monday



"MOTHER AND CHILD" by [illegible]

Investing in pieces of Filipino culture



"PARISIAN LIFE" by Juan Luna

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURance System president and general manager Winston Garcia got a lot of flak in 2002 when he spent about P46 million of the government pensioners' money to buy the Juan Luna masterpiece, "Parisian Life."

"Wanton abuse of power," "anomalous use of pensioners' funds" and "unjustifiable expense" were just some of the criticisms hurled against him.

Few dared to come out in the open then to defend the decision of the ever-controversial Garcia to purchase the 53-by-71 centimeter oil painting dated 1892, which showed an unidentified Parisian lady and Filipino heroes Dr. Jose Rizal, Juan Luna and Dr. Ariston Bautista.

It has been over five years since GSIS won the auction in Hong Kong for the century-old painting and the criticisms have long died down.

The "Parisian Life," meanwhile, is now the centerpiece of the GSIS Museo ng Sining and its value has more than doubled—a worthy investment by any standard, Garcia tells the Inquirer in an interview.

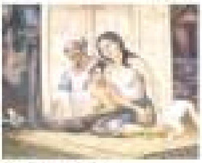
And if another chance comes along to buy a Filipino masterpiece, Garcia says he will pounce on it—even if even more flak comes his way.

There are practical reasons, he says, as the value of art appreciates over time—sometimes beating the profits from the stock market and money market placements—and the collection allows GSIS to [illegible] pensioners.

But the more romantic motivation is the opportunity to own pieces of Filipino culture.

The GSIS has been accumulating priceless works of art since 1980 when then

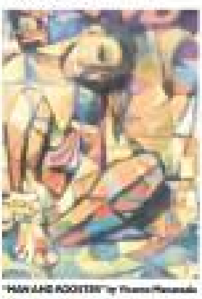
INVESTING B2-1



"PASYON" by Jose Blanco



"BLUE FLORAL" by [illegible]



"MAN AND ROOSTER" by Vicente Manansala

InfoTech

Clarity takes on a whole new meaning



NV 24HD

Hi-tech 'point-and-shoot'

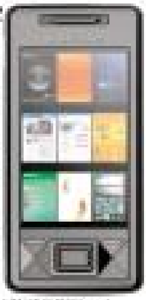
Next generation display



PHOTOS and videos taken can later be viewed on a compatible HDTV.

HD video on HDTV

A premium slider experience



A TOUCHY-FEELY panel



Lowly catfish goes high-end





Lowly fish

Export potential

Investing in ...

BUSINESS Monday

How to keep customers loyal: Offer more than what's expected

Thai high-end shop shares why it's the 'ultimate shopping complex'





Out of the box

Filipino shoppers



BUSINESS Monday

Putting RP's best food forward



BOOTH of Bikol producers

Franchising multiplies jobs and enterprises

By [illegible]

Franchising is considered a powerful tool for economic development. It creates thousands of enterprises as well as millions of jobs. It also helps fuel the growth of entrepreneurship.

Samie Lim, chairman emeritus of the Philippine Franchise Association and also chairman of Francorp Philippines, shares that there are three major reasons why franchising works. Franchising, he says, is a share of the most limited resources to expand one's business. These are other people's money, other people's time, and other people's organization.

The franchisee would be the one who would shell out the money to open another outlet of the franchise. He would pay all the expenses for its operations.

By other people's time he means that the franchisee would be managing the business while other people's network or connection would make it easier for the franchisee to run the business. "He knows the local government authorities, he knows the people and whom to hire, he knows the customers. Knowing the people in the community creates lots of advantages," Lim explains.

Why buy a franchise

Lim simply describes that buying a franchise is acquiring a trusted brand with a consistent quality. It provides assurance to customers that they would be getting the same value whenever they purchase that brand.

Franchising also thrives amid challenging times. Studies show that franchising grows even faster during times of recession as it also remains robust despite the odds.

Franchising also has a 90-percent success rate compared to traditional retail (or your own business) which has only 25-percent success rate after 10 years of operation. So for non-franchised businesses, 75 percent are expected to fold up after 10 years while only 10 percent of franchised companies are not expected to succeed after a decade of operations.

Opportunities in franchising

The Philippine business situation provides a lot of opportunities for franchising, adds Lim.

The primary opportunities are in the food service or the so-called 3 F's which are food, fashion and fun and entertainment. Fruits, marine products, ice and wines, and donuts and coffee businesses are included in the food category and apparel, beauty, hair salon and spa sector for fashion would provide a lot of room for expansion.

The 3 T's is another touted sector. This is composed of transport, the warehousing and delivery, telecom for IT-enabled services, and tourism for hotel and restaurants, resorts, tours, shopping and recreation.

New franchise opportunities are all location-related. This can be summarized into 5 R's for [illegible] (air, sea, transport), [illegible] (rest, recreation, education), [illegible] (hotels, infrastructure), [illegible] (tours, [illegible]), and accommodation (hotel and residential).

The business process outsourcing industry will also continue to expand. By 2010, expected growth of BPO of employees is at 201 percent while revenue growth is forecasted at 241 percent, thus, providing more opportunities for Asia.

Franchising also has a 90-percent success rate compared to traditional retail (or your own business) which has only 25-percent success rate after 10 years of operation



SAMIE Lim, Francorp chair, shares that buying a franchise is acquiring a trusted brand with a consistent quality. It also provides assurance to customers that they would be getting the same value whenever they purchase that brand.

[illegible] chising expansion.

Advantages to franchisor

Franchising offers a lot of advantages to the franchisor. It allows the rapid and simultaneous expansion of the business using minimal capital. Once established, international franchising opportunity or global expansion would also not be left behind.

Aside from rapid expansion, the franchisor would also be able to have a shot at market leadership or continue to be the market leader in its industry. It would be able to develop a national identity and market penetration and saturation would also be achieved.

As it expands its network, there would be less management problems on the franchisor as compared to big companies who are expanding their businesses. Management personnel problems and employee loss would be easier to overcome. Day to day responsibility for direct management of the business would also be eliminated.

There will also be opportunities for more profit and additional capital. Cash flow from franchise fees and royalties can provide for development of additional company-owned units, collective buying power would result in savings and more money can be generated for national and local advertising.

The franchisor would also have more revenue streams coming from initial franchise fees, royalties, sale of products and services, and advertising fees.

Advantages to franchisee

Franchising also works for the franchisee. The established total concept of the product or service consisting of a strong brand name, proven system of operation, turnkey business, standardized products and systems and collective buying power would help the franchisee easily manage and expand the business. Its customers would also be assured that they will be getting the same quality of the product or service offered by the same brand.

A well-established franchise would also be able to provide national and local advertising programs as part of its franchising support and consulting. The operating manual would help the franchisee easily manage the business and the sales and marketing techniques to make the business successful. Beforehand, the franchisee would be assisted in its site selection and assessment and all the results of its research and development processes.

Tokyo Tokyo furthers success with franchising



PR Gaz Haus lights up your future in LPG franchising



Franchise FINDER

This is how MedExpress uses PLDT SWUP for any emergency

"Even if you need just one tablet of medicine, we can deliver it right to your doorstep."



People, Events & Products

Kicking the habit: More than just a test of will

Myth vs fact

Seeking medical support

Prescription cures



Globe supports DTI through Otop program



INQUIRER BEGINS THANKSGIVING ROADSHOW FOR NEWSBOYS

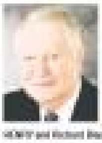
UCC COFFEE INTRODUCES NEW DISHES

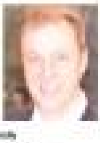


Abbott launches 2 multivitamins



Evangelical authors set RP speaking tour







Pacers annual convention Feb. 20



LIFESTYLE
Editor: Elvira Mata-Yumenes Sub-editor: Lito B. Zulueta



MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS

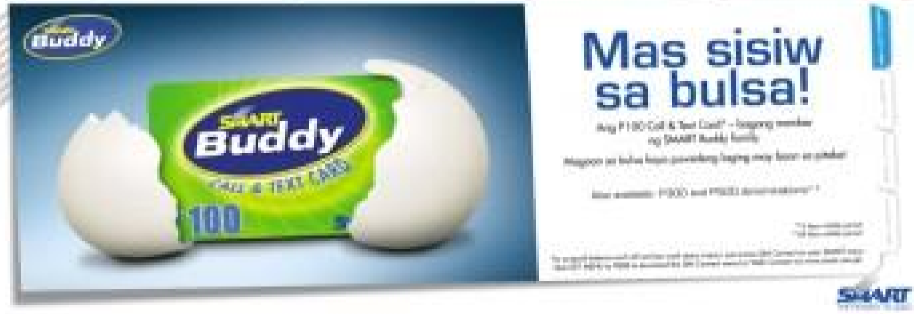
Farley del Rosario's 'Action Figures'





Best-selling young artist recasts iconic robots into his trademark cartoonish figures but endowing them with currency and edge





'Tribute to the Thomasian'

[illegible]





The 33rd International Bamboo Organ Festival occurs at Las Piñas Church Feb. 21-29, 8 p.m.

FESTIVAL Orchestra [illegible]

Thirty-three and still counting...

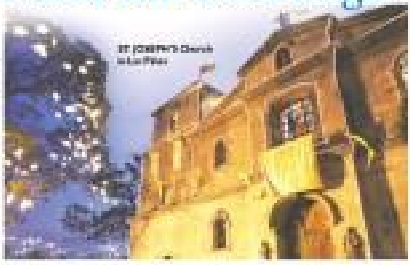
By [illegible]

WHY NOT A GIRLS' choir?" asked a woman media practitioner. [illegible]

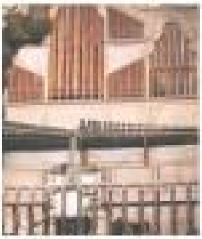
[illegible]

Thirty-three, and still counting!

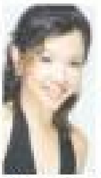
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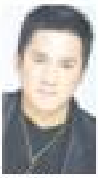


ST. JOSEPH'S Church in Las Piñas



LAS PIÑAS Bamboo Organ [illegible]





IVAY [illegible] ROBERT [illegible]





LAS PIÑAS Boys Choir [illegible]



PIANIST [illegible]

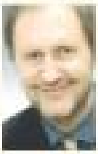
A touch of Old Vienna

By [illegible]

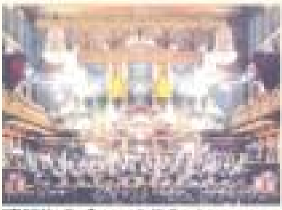
[illegible]

Annual event

[illegible]



AUSTRIAN [illegible]



VIENNA [illegible]

Books that help and give counsel

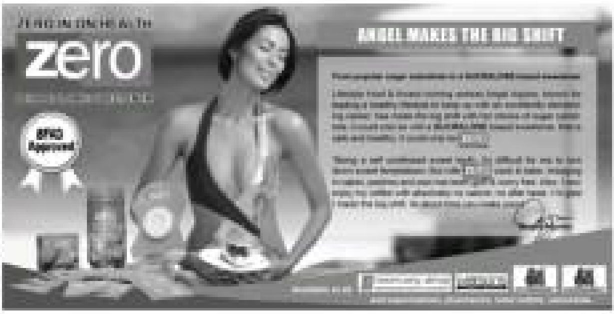
Delicate and dignified

Healing and recovery



A distinguished story that is subtle, brave and open





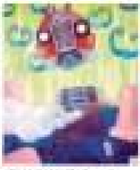


Public relations seminar Feb. 27



Farley. . .

From page C1

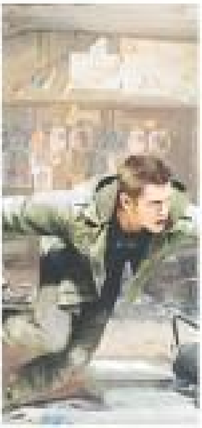


FROM BOOK TO FILM

Sci-fi story jumps to the big screen



HAYDEN Christensen hides from the deadly Paladins, a secret sect sworn to destroy the "Jumpers."



CHRISTENSEN as David Rice, an unassuming young man who discovers he has the ability to teleport.

Dimensions

LIFESTYLE

Making heritage work for us

PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

THERE HAS been a long lament in heritage circles that Philippine-built patrimony is either in endangered these days or has practically vanished altogether, having been replaced by all sorts of architectural oddities.





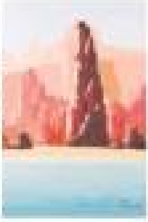


Caringal in Singapore



ANDREA DOMINGO

Pillars of vivid recall





"SPLENDOR"

Graffiti art, transgressive art



"A QUESTION of Where and When"



"DYSTOPIC Utopia"



Taiwan photo exhibit, filmfest at UST

Pinoy artist in NY





THE ARTIST



We need to appreciate that heritage conservation has its rewards



Making heritage work for us

Vigan

Assistance

Arts Month features art in public spaces

THE PHILIPPINE ARTS Festival, or the National Arts Month, is ongoing. Spearheaded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Ani ng Sining festival has the theme "Art in Public Spaces."

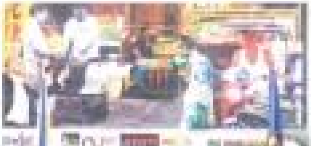
"We are not poor. We are a country that is rich in the arts," stresses NCCA executive director Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez.

The festival was launched at the Malacañang Palace grounds recently. Twenty-seven inmates from the National Bilibid Prison were joined by singer Gary Valenciano for a heart-rending delivery of "Take Me Out of the Dark."

Also on the same occasion, masterpieces of Rafael Pacheco were exhibited alongside the works of out-of-school youth from Hapag ng Kabataan and Dili sa Pinas.

"This project is a direct response of the NCCA to President Macapagal-Arroyo's vision of using arts as a catalyst for social change and a force for values education," Guidote-Alvarez said.

The 2008 Philippine Arts Festival was also launched in Bataan. Hosted by former Orange and Lemons frontman Mcoy Fundales (now of Kenyo), the day opened with a rousing parade at daybreak led by NCCA chair Vilma Labrador and featured various brass bands and dancing groups from the different schools of the University Belt.





FR. JAMES Reuter leads invocation during launch ceremonies in Malacañang. Below, Gary Valenciano performs "Take Me out of the Dark" with prison inmates as backup singers.





"ART is Life," Philippine Arts Festival mural

The festival seeks to infuse the streets and public spaces with art. For example, Mendiola features street musicians.

Aside from Valenciano and Fundales, entertainers who have supported the festival are Lea Salonga, Joel Torre, Maja Salvador, Sheryn Regis, Chad Peralta, Arnold Reyes, Philipinas, and Tado Jimenez.

Other Ani ng Sining activities:

Feb. 18—Ani ng Sining at the Philippine Senate

Feb. 20-21—Fiesta at LRT at MRT

Feb. 21—Pinoy Pinoy: Pamaskong sa Baguio

Whole month of February—Art exhibits and film showings at Penguin, Malate

Every Wednesday of February—Visual arts workshops at Penguin, Malate

Every weekend of February—Musical performances at Penguin, Malate

All events are open to the public and free of charge. For festival schedules, visit www.ncca.gov.ph.



PARADE of lights: below, Bruno Mendoza at Penguin



PLDT art winners feted



GRAND prize winner Arnica Acantilado of Polytechnic University of the Philippines poses with her artwork "Tanaw ng Kalakalan."

AFTER REPRESENTING HER school for three years, Arnica Y. Acantilado finally wins the coveted Philippine Long Distance (PLDT) and Directories Philippines Corporation's (DPC) Kulay at Art National Competition.

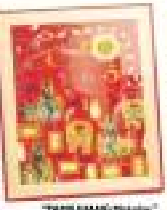
Theme this year was "Guhit Ang Pamilihan Noon, Ngayon Para Sa Hinaharap." Acantilado, of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, translated the theme into a 20x28" acrylic on canvas by taking inspiration from the Binondo marketplace—a site that has remained unchanged and is as relevant in the country's early years of commerce as it is now.

Many link Acantilado's use of the "Binondo" in her entry "Tanaw ng Kalakalan" as inspiration. The judges, after all, were looking for an entry that has, as judge Randy Arlalde said, "an element of surprise."

Aside from Arlalde, the judges were Baim Dealla Rosa, Yasmin Ho, and Cloie Villanueva.

Acantilado's entry will be the cover art of next year's PLDT-DPC Yellow Pages. She took home P100,000 and a trophy by National Artist Napoleon V. Abueva.

Acantilado likewise won for her school's Fine Arts department P40,000 in donation and a plaque.



"PAMILIHANG Malsilap" by Ron Aguilar, 3rd prize

It was a double victory of sorts, meanwhile, for the University of the East as its representatives took home the second- and third-place honors in this year's contest.

Jonathan Salvatierra's "Baratilyo," a 27x33" acrylic on board, placed second overall. The 22-year-old senior student took home P70,000 and a trophy and won for his school P50,000 in donation and a plaque.

Placing third is Ron Aguilar's "Pamilihang Malsilap." The 24-year-old took home P60,000 and a trophy and won for his school P25,000 in donation and a plaque.

Other winners were: Joel Sarmiento III of La Consolacion College, fourth place; Peter Mark Dino of Far Eastern University, fifth; John Ryn Morales of Asia Pacific College, first honorable mention; Vladolf Jimenez of Bicol, second honorable mention; and Ron Aaron Balbuena of FEU, third honorable mention.

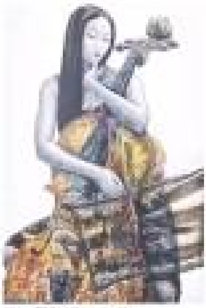


"BARATILYO," by Jonathan Salvatierra, 2nd prize



"URANG Pagpupugay, Magmahal, Pamilihan," by Peter Mark Dino, 5th prize

Filipino paintings in Singapore auction



"CELLIST," by Vincent de Pio

THE WORKS OF 11 FILIPINO ARTISTS are among those chosen from hundreds of artists from all over Southeast Asia for inclusion in the debut auction of the Masterpiece Auction House in Singapore.

Masterpiece is one of the largest auction houses in Indonesia. Founded five years ago, it runs over 20 auctions a year in Indonesia. This year, the company decided to open in the Singapore art market, bringing with it the company's successful experience in conducting auctions for the different sectors of the art market. The Southeast Asian Contemporary Art auction is slated March 2 at The Ballroom Level 2 of Sheraton Towers Singapore in 39 Scotts Road. There are 277 lots of paintings selected from among the top artists in China, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

Featured in the auction are 11 Filipino paintings, which include two oil on canvas works by Lydia Velasco, "Neighborings" and "Balintawak"; Onib Olmedo's oil on canvas work from his Old Manila series "Old Manila: Binondo Church"; Alfredo Esquillo's contemporary self-portrait "On Top of the World"; Amy Mondo's "Heart-shaped"; Vincent de Pio's "Cellist"; and Manny Garibay's "Thinking Man." Included as well are works from artists Amy Amigos, Joy Mallari, Oscar Salita and an oil on canvas work by Winner Jumalon.

Included in a charity auction at the 2nd Ateneo among investment bankers and donors in Hong Kong last November, Bibby's work "Nagbabanggi" was the painting that raised the largest sum (over P400,000) for the projects of International Care Ministries (ICM).

For more information, visit www.masterpieceauction.com.sg.



"THINKING Man," by Manny Garibay

VISUAL ARTS

Alcazaren at Finale

In "Seed to Seed," on view at Finale Art Gallery (4/L Bldg. A, SM Megamall) until March 4, Juan Alcazaren shows the inevitability of patterns that compose our world, continually changing to a moment of potentiality and visual delight. The artist, instead of re-enforcing his works as merely homage to found repetitions around us, disrupts them by situating the considerations he has against a field that resembles a broken-down circuit board—its lines abstracting and ultimately challenging the balance and the beauty of patterns. The color of rust and industrial waste, the field seems to emphasize the disruptive quality of the industrial, corrupting the innocent flows of nature transmogrified into space-re-creations of a world we once knew, instigating a feeling of loss and menace toward a future of pure frustrations and transitory realities. Call 6343411 or visit www.finaleartfile.com.



"SEED"



"TWINS Facing Fauve"

Garcia at Art Informal

Art Informal (277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City) presents Marina Cruz-Garcia's "Recollections," a solo exhibit featuring a personal journey of the artist, as she pays homage to the people who have touched her life. The exhibit runs until Feb. 18. Call 7250518 or 0918-9096908.

Charlie Co in Singapore

Charlie Co is featured in "Universal Theater: Global Drama" in Soga Gallery, 110 Mt. Sophia, 1-17 Singapore, 228466. Show opens Feb. 22 and runs until March 3. Call 65-63379888 or visit www.sogagallery.com.



LEA Paner-Carballo, Lita Consulta, Rebecca Quibal and Miriam Gonzaga-Dizon

Art by lawyers

Art Discovery and Foundation Inc. presents "Lawyers-Artists" Feb. 22-March 7. Participating artists are Lea Paner-Carballo, Miriam Gonzaga-Dizon, Lita Consulta and Rebecca B. Quibal. Part of the proceeds will go to the Art Discovery and Learning Foundation Inc. scholarship programs.

Philippine Committee artists at Ayala Museum

The Philippine Committee, Asian Artists Inc., a member of the Federation of Asian Artists, will open today, 6:30 p.m., at Ayala Museum, the exhibit featuring the Philippine artworks that were exhibited during the 22nd Asian International Art Exhibition in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, last year. Exhibiting artists are Ma. Victoria "Bessie" Abaño, Virgilio Aviado, Ben Cabrera, Rosalyn de Guia, Sid Gomez Hildawa, Abdulmari Asia Imao, Ramon Orlina, Samuel Penaso, Pope Sim Prescott and Susan Fetalvero Roces. Call 7577117 loc. 18.



RAFAEL "Boy" Cinco Jr. presents a one-man show until Feb. 28 at Arakada Capitol, Alibago, Baguio. Arakada. Shown is a four-story gold medallion in prices of the ASF Resale the series a "Crucifixion," oilwork on canvas. Call 0918-2316711.

ENTERTAINMENT



Pops mum about Martin's rumored new girl


MARTIN Nievera

DOLLY WOOD


Dolly Anne Carvajal

GOT THIS INTRIGUING E-MAIL FROM

Comic side

Third anniversary

Guess who

Latina invasion

Biggest wish



Koreans check out RP for film sites

By Marinel R. Cruz

A TWO-MEMBER KOREAN TEAM FROM THE ASIAN Film Commissions Network or AFCNet was in Manila recently for a three-day visit, Philippine Film Export Services Office chief Digna Santiago said.

AFCNet head of secretariat [illegible] (also the director of the Asian Film Market held in Pusan in October) came with his assistant [illegible] Kang. They visited post-production facilities, toured scenic spots in the country and met key players in the movie industry from Feb. 11 to 13, Santiago told Inquirer Entertainment.

The trip is part of the continuing efforts of the Department of Tourism and the Film Development Council to promote the Philippines as an alternative film site.

Film production network

Founded in 2004, the AFCNet is a network of Asian film commissions and organizations that actively promote movie production in Asia by building a convenient working environment. It has 26 members from 11 Asian countries. The Philippines, under the FPESO, is its newest member.

On their first day, Park and Kang visited post-production offices [illegible] in Quezon City, Optima Digital in Makati, and [illegible] and [illegible] also in Makati.

They flew to Cebu City the following day to inspect the facilities of Bigfoot Entertainment, a Hollywood production company based there. Their last day was spent touring Bohol.

Perfect for int'l productions

On Feb. 13, Inquirer Entertainment spoke with Kang on the phone while his entourage was on a Bohol [illegible]. He said he was impressed with the International Academy of Film and Television, a film school within Bigfoot, and planned to co-produce a film with the Cebu-based studio.

"The film industry in the Philippines has an interesting workflow. It's perfect for international productions," Kang observed. "It's also an advantage that majority of Filipinos can speak English."

Meanwhile, a Bollywood film outfit is about to start shooting here in March.

The movie, an action-comedy titled "Love," will be shot in Subic and Metro Manila, Santiago added.

Last month, [illegible], chief operating officer of [illegible] Motion Picture Pvt Ltd and producer of "Love," was in the country with a five-member crew for pre-production.

[illegible] is one of eight top Bollywood filmmakers who visited Manila as part of the DOT's "Film Tourism" project.

According to Santiago, six Indian producers from five film companies are scheduled to arrive on Feb. 25 for a familiarization tour.

(Email: [illegible])

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

NOW SHOWING

CASH AND CARRY cinema

THEATRES

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema							
GLORIETTA 1	1 JUMPER	2 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	3 THE EYE	4 MY BESTFRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND			
GLORIETTA 4	1 JUMPER	2 MY BESTFRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND	3 JUMPER	4 [illegible]	5 BUCKET LIST	6 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	7 JUNO
GREENBELT 1	1 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	2 JUMPER					
GREENBELT 3	1 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	2 JUMPER	3 JUNO	4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK	5 DARJEELING LIMITED		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 JUMPER	2 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	3 JUNO	4 MY BESTFRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND	5 THE EYE		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 JUMPER	2 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	3 P.S. I LOVE YOU	4 MY BESTFRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 JUMPER	2 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	3 MY BESTFRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND	4 JUNO	5 JUMPER		
TRINOMA	1 MY BESTFRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND	2 GOOD LUCK CHUCK	3 27 DRESSES	4 SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	5 JUNO	6 BUCKET LIST	7 JUMPER

AT THE MALLS

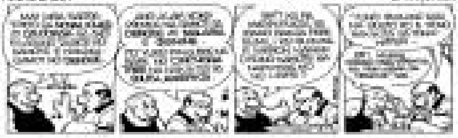
Mall	Event
Glorietta	[illegible] Feb 20 to Mar 9, Glorietta Activity Center
Greenbelt	[illegible]
Alabang Town Center	[illegible] Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu	[illegible] February 18 to March 16
Market! Market!	[illegible] February 23, Activity Center
Onstage	[illegible]
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
TriNoma	[illegible] Activity Center



A. LIPIN



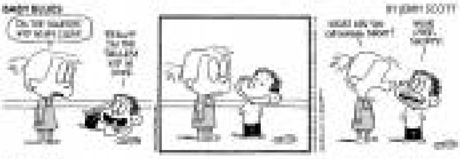
PUGAD BABOY



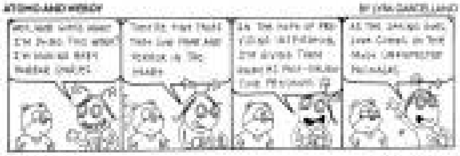
GARFIELD



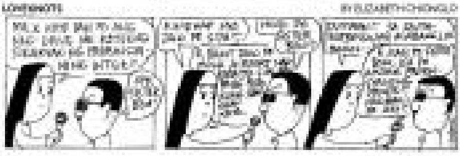
BABY BLUES



ATOMO AND WENDY



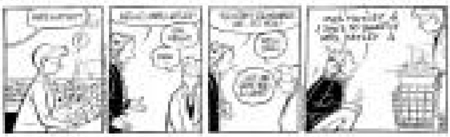
LOVESHOTS



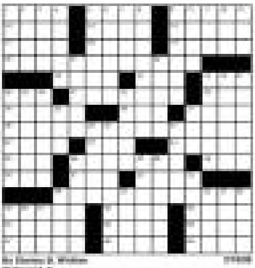
KIKO MACHINE

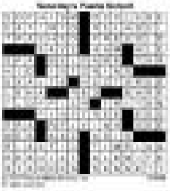


BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

3	6						1	5
			7		5			
1	7						8	2
	1			7			2	
7		2	4	8	6	5		1
	4			3			7	
9	2						5	4
			3		2			
6	3						9	8

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

'Mutya' beauty awes Malaysians





Area One: Beatlemania revisited

Review



Entertainment



Now, that's winning

Best Buddies from RP take all but the final lap of 'The Amazing Race Asia'—setting a record, and then some

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Toughest rivals

Signature jump







Going for the real satisfaction

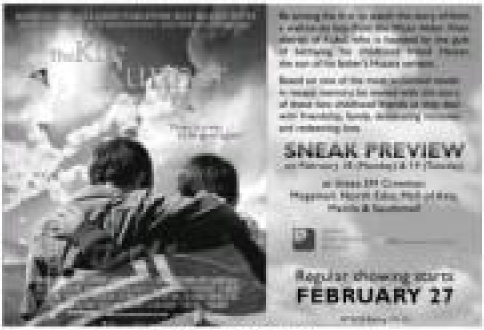
More than the medals from the NY event, Kapuso reporters are proud that their winning docus have moved people to action

Five medals

Wish for long-term support



SM Cinema movietime



METRO MANILA

IMAX

THE PODIUM



LUZON

VISAYAS - MINDANAO

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 JUMPER - THX
2 LIHIM ni ANTONIO
3 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES
4 JUNO
5 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
6 JUMPER
7 THE MIST
8 IndieSine: SELDA
9 THE EYE
10 THE BUCKET LIST
GOOD LUCK CHUCK



ERMITA

1 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES
2 27 DRESSES
THE BUCKET LIST
3 THE EYE
4 JUMPER
5 CLOVERFIELD
JOHN RAMBO
6 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
7 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
1 JUNO
2 THE MIST
3 JUMPER

METRO EAST

1 JUNO
2 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
3 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
4 THE EYE
5 THE MIST
6 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES
7 JUMPER
8 THE BUCKET LIST

NOVALICHES

1 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
2 JUNO
3 JUMPER
4 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

PIONEER

1 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES
2 JUMPER
3 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
4 JUNO

STA. ROSA

1 JUMPER
2 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
3 THE EYE
4 AMERICAN GANGSTER

LIPA

1 JUMPER
2 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
3 CLOVERFIELD
4 IN THE NAME of the KING

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE EYE
2 JUMPER
3 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
4 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

IMUS

1 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
2 THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES
3 JUMPER
4 THE EYE

ANGELES

1 JUMPER
2 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
3 P.S. I LOVE YOU
4 SAW IV

TARLAC

1 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
2 JOHN RAMBO
3 AMERICAN GANGSTER

STARMILLS

1 DRAGON WAR
2 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
3 P.S. I LOVE YOU
4 THE EYE
5 JUMPER
6 SAW IV

BACOLOD

1 JUMPER
2 CLOVERFIELD
3 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
4 ALVIN & the CHIPMUNKS / JOHN RAMBO
5 SAW IV
6 ANG LIHIM ni ANTONIO

ILOILO

1 JUMPER
2 SAW IV
3 MY BEST FRIEND's GIRLFRIEND
4 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
5 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
6 IN THE NAME of the KING



Ellen Page brings quirky charm to the indie comedy 'Juno'



THE ACADEMY Awards nominee is saying she's a ... breakthrough character.

Tomboy chic

Acting honors

Going for the real . . .

Now, that's winning

Choice partner



ADRIAN Pap, ... and Collin Low from Singapore



Special effects expert teaches art of illusion





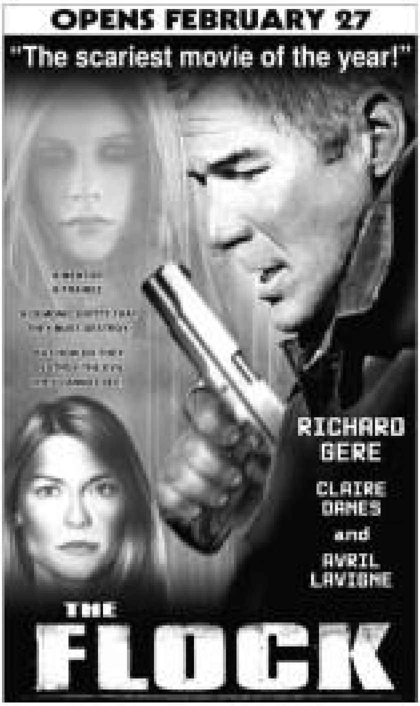


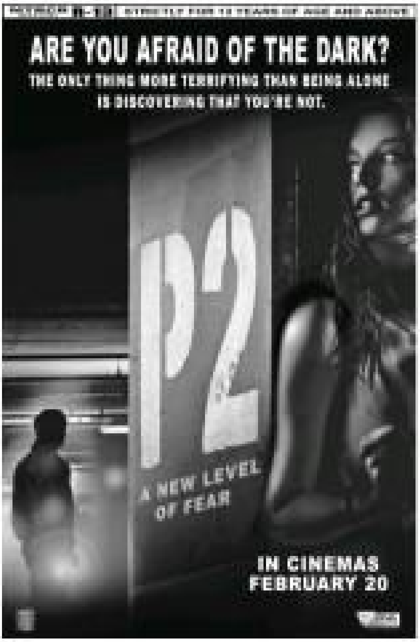
Wounds and scratches











CLICK!

Oscars live